

**MichUHCAN**  
Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network

**Testimony**  
**Senate Health Policy Committee**  
**Re: Senate Joint Resolution K and Senate Joint Resolution R**  
**February 3, 2010**

On behalf of the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MichUHCAN), I am here today to strongly oppose SJR K and SJR R. Last week I was in Washington, D.C. with persons from around the country interested in the issue of health care reform. I learned that legislation similar to these joint resolutions have been introduced in 29 other states. All are aimed at undermining the individual mandate language in the federal health care reform legislation. The individual mandate is a critical component to making the federal reforms affordable and lowering the costs of health care. It creates the large pool across which health care costs can be shared.

I must tell you that my membership sees these resolutions as thinly veiled efforts to undermine and derail federal health care reform efforts and we find the tactic unconscionable!

Your constituents in Michigan desperately need this federal legislation with the mandate. More and more families are losing their health insurance because premiums are too costly or they are dropped by their insurer when they become ill. More and more business cannot afford to provide insurance for their employees. Over 1.3 million of our residents are uninsured. Our seniors struggle every day with the dreaded "donut hole" in their prescription drug coverage and the increases in the costs of their health care. More and more people die each year with the diagnosis of "no insurance" or suffer the anguish of bankruptcy because of health care bills.

Every resident in Michigan will benefit from the proposed health care reform legislation.

People with insurance will be provided security and stability knowing their coverage cannot be rescinded should they get ill and that they can switch jobs knowing a pre-existing condition will not keep them from coverage

with their new employer. Insured Michiganders will be helped by the fact that more of their premium dollars will be spent on health care services rather than profits and administration. Preventive services for chronic diseases will be covered at no cost and over time the cost of health will be lowered.

Many, many of Michigan's 1.3 million uninsured and underinsured will have choices of affordable coverage and no fear of denial because of pre-existing conditions.

Seniors in Michigan will have lower health care costs and no longer fear a "donut hole" in their prescription drug coverage.

Not passing health care reform legislation and implementing it in Michigan is not an option. We cannot have any more people die for lack of insurance or file for bankruptcy because of health care bills. We cannot have health care costs continue to rise by double digits each year threatening to collapse our entire health care system. We need federal health care reform NOW in Michigan. Actually, we have needed it for decades. These resolutions threaten to defeat the ability of proposed federal legislation to provide the services we must have. Do not support the resolutions – lives are depending on you.